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## RECOGNIZING ARMED FORCES DAY

SPEECH OF

**HON. PHIL GINGREY**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 13, 2009*

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my strongest support for H. Res. 377, a bill that recognizes Armed Forces Day and commends the exemplary service of the members of the United States Armed Services. I would like to say a special thanks to Chairman SKELTON and Ranking Member MCHUGH, as well as to the Members and staff of the House Armed Services Committee for their tireless efforts in support of our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines who are bravely defending us at home and abroad.

Today, it is appropriate that we take a moment to recognize and say thank you to the members of our Armed Forces for their dedication, sacrifice, and honor. Each and every day, they keep this great nation safe and protect the freedoms that we enjoy every single day. We are proud of all of our servicemen and women and are eternally grateful for their efforts in the Global War on Terror. Furthermore, let us not forget those who have given their lives in service to our freedom, and let us say a gracious thank you to them for their willingness to make the ultimate sacrifice for liberty.

Madam Speaker, the families of those who serve our country on the front lines also deserve the admiration and appreciation of each and every citizen. These family members often watch their loved ones travel to far away lands in support of a cause and an ideal so much greater than any one individual. Indeed, our democratic form of government is testament to the courage and valor of our Armed Forces. The support given to our servicemen and women by their loved ones is irreplaceable, as it is the foundation for the bravery inherent in those who labor steadfastly in the defense of liberty.

I believe that the brave men and women who sacrifice for our present freedoms deserve our fullest support. Our nation's servicemen and women represent the best our country has to offer, and they must be treated with the respect and honor they deserve. As we ask these courageous soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines—and their families—to do more and more, it's only right we continue doing all we can for them. Recognizing Armed Forces Day in 2009 is just one small reminder of the superior job our troops perform for America at home and abroad, and it is my hope that we will continue to do all we can and more for the members of our Armed Forces.

Madam Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill.

## 21ST CENTURY GREEN HIGH-PERFORMING PUBLIC SCHOOL FACILITIES ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. BOB ETHERIDGE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 13, 2009*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2187) to direct the Secretary of Education to make grants to State educational agencies for the modernization, renovation, or repair of public school facilities, and for other purposes:

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2187, the 21st Century Green High-Performing Public School Facilities Act. As the only former state schools chief serving in Congress, I know that one of the biggest challenges we face in North Carolina, and across the country, is the lack of adequate facilities for learning to take place. This bill will put the federal government in partnership with local school districts to improve our schools and make them safer, healthier, and more green places for our children. However, this bill is about more than building schools. In this time of economic crisis, our efforts should be focused on helping people in our communities. And this bill does that by focusing on three things: jobs, jobs, and jobs.

First, the bill will create jobs in our communities in the short term. School construction and modernization projects enabled by this legislation will put people to work in construction, renovation, and planning. Across the country, hundreds of projects are ready to go immediately if given the green light with funding, and that means employment in 30 or 60 or 90 days from the time this bill gets funded.

Second, the bill lays the foundation for the clean energy jobs we need in the future. The green building projects enabled by this legislation will provide a model for innovation in the future. We will put people to work improving energy efficiency and applying new sources of energy to our needs, creating high tech jobs and new industries that will apply American ingenuity and know-how. This will also reduce our dependence on foreign sources of energy.

Third, the bill invests in the next generation so that they are prepared for the jobs of the 21st Century. There really is no substitute for bricks and mortar when it comes to quality schools and to meeting the educational goals of our communities. Funding in this bill will move our kids out of trailers, from facilities that put our children's health and safety at risk, into quality classrooms where they can focus on learning. And it will free up local funds to be used to improve classroom education.

This bill is about jobs today, jobs tomorrow, and jobs for the future. It addresses our most important priorities in unemployment, energy, and education. It is a good bill, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting it.

HONORING DIANE POLICELLI

**HON. THADDEUS G. MCCOTTER**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 14, 2009*

Mr. MCCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge Diane Policelli,

upon her receipt of the Tribute to Women Award, presented by the Michigan Federation of Republican Women.

Diane Policelli has selflessly dedicated herself to serving her community and actively promoting the values and ideals of the Republican Party. Since retiring from her career with Ford Motor Company, she has become dynamically engaged in her neighborhood. A certified member of the Community Emergency Response Team, Diane frequently supports the city and Police and Fire departments during emergency situations. She is a Board member and chief fundraiser for the Livonia Public Schools Foundation, as well as the Vice President of the Civic Library Commission. In these roles, she dedicatedly volunteers her time to mentoring high school students.

As the Community Service Chair and Hostess Chair for the Suburban Republican Women's Club, she dedicates her time to organizing activities which allow the members to creatively engage with the community. Under her direction, the Suburban Republican Women have been participating in a program to collect coupons to assist the military families of the United States. Diane also worked with a local senior citizen center on a project to have the club serve food at a dinner for the seniors.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending sincere congratulations to this year's Tribute to Women Award honoree, Diane Policelli, for her devoted service to her community and country.

## 28TH ANNUAL NATIONAL PEACE OFFICERS' MEMORIAL SERVICE

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 14, 2009*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, today we stand on the West Lawn commemorating and celebrating the Nation's law enforcement officers from across the Nation. As Members of Congress, we welcome you to this Congress every year, and we do so humbly and with great appreciation.

Let me acknowledge the work that many of us have done with our local law enforcement in the State of Texas. We have a multitude of law disciplines and law enforcement persons to whom we in Texas owe a debt of gratitude. From the constables office to other peace officers throughout the City of Houston, we owe these peace officers a debt of gratitude.

As a Member of the Eighteenth Congressional District, I have the privilege of representing the first African American constable, Mae Walker, and representing Constable Victor Trevino, a Hispanic constable. We have deputy sheriffs. We have the sheriff's department. We have the Houston Police Department, the Department of Public Safety. In many instances we find great leaders who believe not only in crime fighting, but crime prevention.

Today I would like to focus upon the importance of law enforcement and their need to work in the community. I salute the former mayor of the City of Houston, Lee Brown, former chief of police of the cities of Houston, New York, and Atlanta. I consider him the father of community-oriented policing that really speaks to the hearts and minds of the people.